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## **AIR QUALITY HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Air Quality Advisory Issued by Health Department**

The Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services is advising citizens that fine particle concentrations in Anchorage reached levels considered 'unhealthy for sensitive groups' on Sunday. Concentrations for the 24-hour period exceeded EPA standards for PM-2.5, which includes wood smoke and pollution from cold-starting vehicles.

The National Weather Service is forecasting weather conditions throughout the week that may allow poor air quality to continue. Clear skies, cold temperatures and low wind speeds will likely persist throughout the week, favoring accumulation of pollution. Air quality may vary from location to location and hour to hour.

Air pollutants have a greater affect on children, the elderly and individuals with health conditions such as heart and lung ailments. Those who are especially sensitive to air pollution are advised to remain indoors whenever concentrations are forecast to reach or exceed levels considered unhealthy for sensitive groups (i.e. an air quality index (AQI) value exceeding 100). Such individuals are also advised to avoid strenuous exercise whenever a health advisory is in effect. Individuals with health concerns are advised to contact their health care providers.

Fine particles are measured as PM-2.5 at two monitoring sites in the municipality. One site is located in northeast Anchorage in the Airport Heights neighborhood (Garden site). The second site is located on the Old Glenn Highway in Eagle River (Parkgate site).

The following table contains cautionary statements from EPA for fine particle pollution at specific AQI ranges:

<b>Air Quality Category</b>	<b>Cautionary Statements</b>
Good	None
Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.
Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.

The Anchorage Health Department will continue to report conditions while there remains a likelihood of potentially unhealthful air quality. Current air quality forecasts can be obtained by calling the air quality hotline at 343-4899. Air quality conditions for recent hours are available through the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Air Quality Index webpage:

[www.dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Aq/](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Aq/) which is also linked on the municipal air quality webpage [www.anchorageair.info](http://www.anchorageair.info)